

2007
Montana Hunting
Regulations
Condensed Version

Bison

A complete copy of the Bison Regulations, including hunt area legal descriptions, is available at all FWP Regional and Area Offices, the Helena Headquarters, and the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov.

These regulations and quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission in MCA 87-1-301, and are valid March 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008. These regulations were adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 30, 2007. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

Licensing –

- A hunter may hold only one bison license.
- Application process:
 - Applicants must possess a valid 2007 conservation license to apply.
 - Applications must be accompanied by a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee.
 - Applicants may apply for a 1st and 2nd choice.
 - Either-sex licenses must only be a 1st choice.
 - Cow/calf license application may only be a 2nd choice.
 - Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants. See "Bison License Quota" below.
- Hunters may apply for a bison license:
 - online at fwp.mt.gov/Online_Services/Licenses_&_Applications, no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT on Thursday, October 4, 2007, or
 - over-the-counter at any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT on Thursday, October 4, 2007, or
 - by mail. Applications are available at all FWP license providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. Applications must be received at FWP Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT on Thursday, October 4, 2007.
- General public bison licenses are allotted through a random drawing.
- Successful either-sex bison license applicants and potential (cow/calf) license holders:
 - will be mailed a hunter orientation DVD and test;
 - must take the bison orientation test and present the completed test at the time of license purchase;
 - must purchase a bison license prior to hunting. Bison licenses are available only from any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters. Bison license fees: Resident - \$125; Nonresident - \$750.
 - will be required to possess or purchase a hunter access enhancement fee before hunting.
- State-issued Tribal licenses will be issued free-of-charge only from any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters.

Bison License Quota –

- A total of 44 either-sex State-issued licenses will be awarded.
- Up to 100 cow/calf State-issued licenses MAY be incrementally awarded depending upon bison migration into individual hunting districts.
 - The cow/calf hunter list will be created from the drawing of second choice applicants. If a cow/calf hunt is activated based upon bison migration, cow/calf licenses will be issued to hunters incrementally in sequence drawn.
- Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the region's license quota.

- Of the 44 either-sex State-issued licenses, 16 will be awarded to Tribal members in accordance with MCA 87-2-731.
- Two either-sex licenses will be issued to each Montana Tribe. Licenses issued to an individual Montana Tribe will be for the same randomly drawn hunting district and time period.
- Any licenses unclaimed after November 1 will be reallocated according to FWP policy.
- In addition to the 44 either-sex State-issued licenses and the potential 100 cow/calf State-issued licenses, the FWP Commission adopted an equal Tribal Treaty harvest and hunt time period allocation to be evenly apportioned between the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe and the Nez Perce Tribe.

General Regulations AND Methods and Means of Hunting –

- Hunting is restricted to individuals with licenses issued via a drawing process similar to that employed for other special licenses issued by FWP or as designated by Tribal authority. All licenses are non-transferable.
- General regulations as listed in the 2007 Big Game Deer/Elk/Antelope hunting regulations shall govern the 2007 bison season for all license holders.
- The season will begin November 15, 2007 and end February 15, 2008.
- The only means of taking allowed are center-fire rifles. Muzzleloading black powder rifles and/or archery equipment are not permitted.
- Rifles are restricted to center-fire, 150 grain or larger bullet.
- Hunting is allowed on public land. Hunting is also allowed on private land with landowner permission.
- To protect public safety and minimize traffic obstructions, no bison hunting is allowed within 100 yards of major highways.
- Hunting on national forest lands must follow restrictions in USFS order 36 CFR 261.10 (d) (firearm discharges are prohibited within 150 yards of residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area or across a forest service road or body of water).
- License quotas, hunting district boundaries, and season structure can be modified by FWP Commission authority.
- As adopted under SB395 (MCA 87-2-730) FWP shall not provide actual physical location of wild bison other than the prescribed hunting district where the animal may be taken.
- Hunting is subject to 24-hour closure in the event it becomes necessary to allow for hazing under the Interagency Bison Management Plan.
- Hunting shall be only by foot or horseback.
- There are two hunting districts, each with multiple time periods as listed below.

----- HD 385 -----

385-00: 6 licenses

- Nov 15 - Dec 31 – Either-sex Bison.

385-10: Up to 18 licenses

- Nov 15 - Dec 31 – Cow/calf Bison. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants.

385-01: 6 licenses

- Jan 01 - Jan 22 – Either-sex Bison.

385-11: Up to 18 licenses

- Jan 01 - Jan 22 – Cow/calf Bison. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants.

385-02: 6 licenses

- Jan 23 - Feb 15 – Either-sex Bison.

385-12: Up to 18 licenses

- Jan 23 - Feb 15 – Cow/calf Bison. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants.

----- HD 395 -----

395-00: 6 licenses

- Nov 15 - Dec 31 – Either-sex Bison.

395-10: Up to 18 licenses

- Nov 15 - Dec 31 – Cow/calf Bison. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants.

395-01: 10 licenses

- Jan 01 - Jan 22 – Either-sex Bison.

395-11: Up to 14 licenses

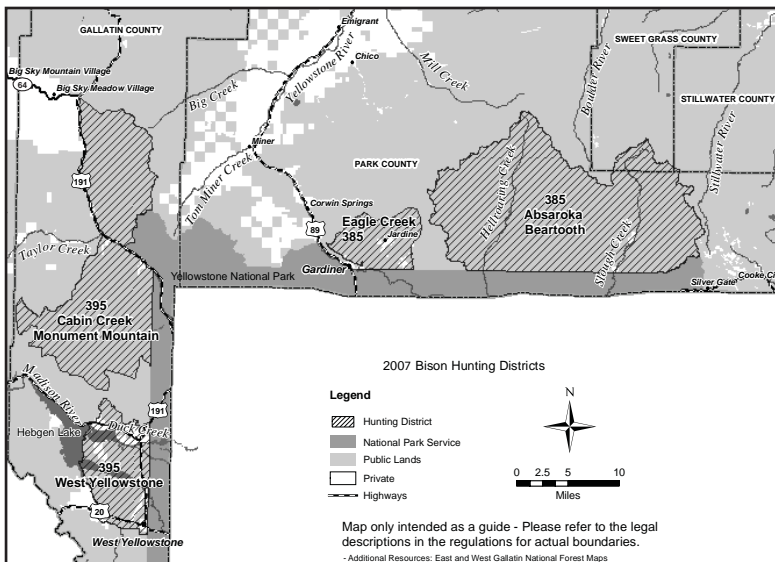
- Jan 01 - Jan 22 – Cow/calf Bison. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants.

395-02: 10 licenses

- Jan 23 - Feb 15 – Either-sex Bison.

395-12: Up to 14 licenses

- Jan 23 - Feb 15 – Cow/calf Bison. Note - a cow/calf hunter list will be created by a random drawing of second choice applicants.



Application on Reverse Side